

That which is claimed:

1. A method for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising the steps of:
  - initializing a first timer, wherein the timer has timer information, including  
5 a time block designation and time usage variable, associated therewith;  
adding the time used by a call to the time usage variable if the call was  
made within the time block designation associated with the timer; and  
notifying the user of predefined timer information.
  2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
    - 10 initializing a second timer, wherein said second timer has timer  
information, including a time block designation and time usage  
variable, associated therewith.
    3. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes  
the time usage variable.
    - 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes  
time limits associated with the time block designation.
    5. The method of claim 4, wherein the predefined timer information includes  
the time limit minus the time usage variable.
    6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
      - 20 receiving time block information to initialize a timer from the user.
      7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
setting the time block designation associated with each timer based on a  
time block defined by a calling plan structure.
      8. The method of claim 1, wherein the time block designation associated with  
25 each timer comprises at least one beginning time and at least one ending time.
      9. The method of claim 1, wherein the time block designation associated with  
each timer comprises at least one beginning date and time and at least one ending  
date and time.
      10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

resetting the timer usage variable.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:  
resetting the timer usage variable periodically.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the  
5 step of:  
sending an electronic message to the user.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the  
step of:  
transmitting timer information on a computer network to a user.
- 10 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying step further comprises the  
step of:  
receiving a user request for timer information through voice mail; and  
transmitting timer information to said user through voice mail.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- 15 protecting the timer information with a user password.
16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
charging a fee to access the timer information.
17. A system for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:  
a computer; and
- 20 a software program loaded onto said computer configured to initiate a  
timer, wherein the timer has information, including a time block  
designation and time usage variable, associated therewith, add the time  
used by a call to the timer usage variable if the call was made within the  
time block designation associated with the timer, and notify the user of
- 25 predefined timer information.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer information includes  
the value of the time usage variable.
19. The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer information includes  
the time limit associated with the time block designation.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is further configured to reset the timer usage variable periodically.
21. The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is further configured to protect information associated with the timer with a password.
- 5 22. The system of claim 17, further comprising:  
a computer network in communication with said computer and configured for allowing the user to access the timer information.
23. A system for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:  
a telephone; and
- 10 a software program loaded onto said telephone configured to initiate a timer, wherein the timer has information, including a time block designation and time usage variable, associated therewith, add the time used by a call to the timer usage variable if the call was made within the time block designation associated with the timer, and notify the user of
- 15 predefined timer information.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the predefined timer information includes the value of the time usage variable.
25. The system of claim 23, wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limit associated with the time block designation.
- 20 26. The system of claim 23, wherein said software program is further configured to reset the timer usage variable periodically.
27. The system of claim 23, wherein said software program is further configured to protect information associated with the timer with a password.
28. The system of claim 23, further comprising:
- 25 a computer network in communication with said computer and configured for allowing the user to access the timer information.
29. The system of claim 23, wherein said telephone is a wireless telephone.
30. The system of claim 23, wherein said telephone is a digital telephone.